

REMARKS

Claims 11-12 are pending. By this Amendment, Claim 11 is amended to address informalities therein, as well as to incorporate a feature illustrated in Figures 14 and 15. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that no new subject matter is presented herein.

Claim Objections

Claim 11 is objected to for containing informalities therein. Applicants have amended the claim in a manner believed to be responsive to the objection. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 7,052,402 to Ichikawa et al. (Ichikawa). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the following reason(s).

Claim 11 recites a power transmission mechanism including a shaft and a hub, wherein the power transmission mechanism also includes, among other features, a hub tooth section formed on the hub and having a straight peak that opposes a step region of a shaft tooth section formed on the shaft, the peak and the valley of the hub tooth section have a constant inside diameter from an end of the shaft toward a shaft shank in an axial direction of the shaft.

Conversely, the marked-up version of Figure 11 of Ichikawa that is attached to the outstanding Office Action merely shows the linear shaped teeth are held in a meshing arrangement with each other. That is, Applicants respectfully submit that Ichikawa does not disclose, teach or suggest a step region in a shaft tooth section that opposes a region having a constant inside diameter in a hub tooth section.

To facilitate an understanding of the difference between that which is taught by Ishikawa and the feature recited by Claim 11, Applicants attach hereto a schematic diagram of plan view of the diameter and tooth thickness of the relevant feature of the claimed invention and that which is taught by Ishikawa. As clearly illustrated in the schematic diagrams, the shaft tooth thickness of the claimed invention, which is represented by the top diagram, has a constant tooth thickness. Meanwhile, the shaft tooth thickness taught by Ishikawa, which is represented by the lower diagram, does not have a constant tooth thickness because a majority of the hub 200 opposing the step region A2 is sloped or curved and is not a straight peak portion having a constant tooth thickness, as is illustrated and taught by Figure 11 of Ishikawa.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Ichikawa does not disclose, teach or suggest each and every feature recited by Claim 11.

To qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102, each and every feature recited by a rejected claim must be disclosed by the art of record. As explained above, Ichikawa does not disclose each and every feature recited by Claim 11. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 11 is not anticipated by, or rendered obvious in view of, Ichikawa and should be deemed allowable.

Claim 12 depends from Claim 11. Applicants respectfully submit that this dependent claim be deemed allowable over Ichikawa for at least the same reason(s) that Claim 11 is allowable, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding objection and rejection, allowance of Claims 11 and 12, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing Attorney Docket Number 025416.00025.

Respectfully submitted,



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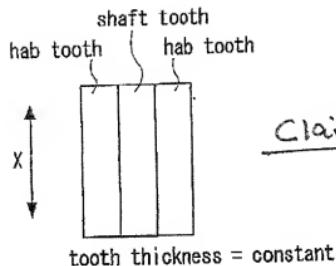
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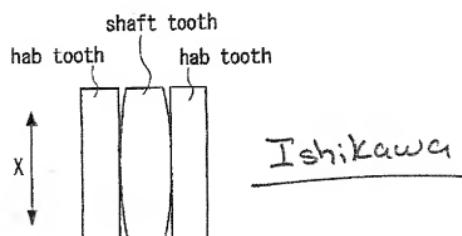
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Attachment: Sketch of Plan View illustrating Shaft Tooth Thicknesses

* plan view



Claim 11



Ishikawa

tooth thickness ≠ constant

tooth thickness ≠ diameter